14. Watering of roads by Motor.

Deputy President.—The next resolution also stands in the name of Mr. Barton Wright.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Mr. President, Sir, the resolution which stands in my name is as follows:—

"*In view of the increasing dust nuisance experienced in Trichur owing to a large number of buses plying in the town, and the harmful effect upon public health, this Council recommends to the Government to insist upon the Municipality taking early and effective measures for the watering of roads by means of motors, as is done in other up-to-date Towns in British and neighbouring States*".

Sir, Trichur has always suffered from the dust nuisance especially in the months of November and December owing to the high east winds during this period. But of late the dust nuisance has become a standing trouble and menace owing to the large increase of motor cars and buses plying in the Town. This is not only a source of inconvenience to the pedestrians but is sure to affect the general health of the people. Nose, throat and lung troubles will surely become a common ailment in the Town unless some effective steps are taken to water the roads. I understand that sometime back the local Municipality passed a resolution to get down a motor lorry for the watering of roads; and that this proposal was turned down by the Government. If the Government stand in the way of effective watering of the roads, it will be doing a grave injustice. I request the Member for Trichur to do all he can in bringing pressure on the Government in this very urgent and important matter.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I second it. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the Government turned down the request of the Municipality to have a motor lorry.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—My information is that the Municipality itself dropped the matter. There is no sufficient water for drinking purposes. Yesterday another resolution to take steps for the supply of drinking water was moved, and this question is closely connected with water supply. When there is practically no water for drinking purposes, it is hard to use the little water that is available for watering roads.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Now that difficulty is overcome.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Was a resolution passed by the Municipality?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Municipality of its own accord dropped the matter.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—Then I was misinformed.

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Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—There were certain points raised along with that. This is a pure Municipal question. Without a sufficient supply of water it will not be possible to take up the question of watering the roads. If, in the meantime, the water problem is solved, we shall take up the resolution again.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—You have already promised to give water.

Mr. U Kandar Menon.—Then there is no reason to assume that the Municipality will not undertake this business.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Well, the Hon'ble Member for Planters bases his argument on the assumption that the Municipality has not done their duty. While I entirely subscribe to the Hon'ble Member's speech, I want to explain the real situation to the Council so far as the Trichur Municipality is concerned. As I happen to be a Member of that Municipality, and as I represent that constituency, I will be failing in my duty if I do not explain the real situation. It has been pointed out by the Hon'ble the Secretary that this is closely allied with the question of water supply. The only places from where we could take water are the tanks within the Municipal limits. But lately we have collected a large volume of water in Kokkalai. A motor lorry was lately purchased for experimental purposes and it works out very expensively. If you want to make this a success, we must at least have half a dozen tanks for storage purposes from where we could replenish the supply. In that case it will be very useful. But at the same time the cost is very high. We must also do something to allay the dust nuisance which is undesirable in the Town. If that is not done, people can proceed against the Municipality, and they are certain to proceed against the Municipality, for issuing licenses to the motor cars without taking adequate measures to protect and safeguard the convenience and comfort of the citizens. I am advised by the lawyers that a man has a right to sue against the Municipality if the Council did not purchase the necessary vehicles to carry out its duties. What is the earthly use of having one motor lorry for sprinkling a few drops of water on the busy roads? I think that the people of Trichur have got enough of sense to understand that it is better not to have any than to have one. We are going to purchase, I assure you, two or three lorries as soon as this question of water supply is solved. And this will be the first item of expenditure that will be undertaken by the Trichur Municipality if the Chief Engineer's plan turns out successful, as I hear that he is going to do everything possible to make the town healthy as it used to be. The Trichur Municipality is very keen in keeping its

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reputation, but owing to various causes over which we have no control the town is deteriorating, and we cannot be reasonably blamed for that.

About the matter of buses. It requires the sanction of the Municipal Council to ply on the roads. We are considering the question of issuing further licenses, but there also the question arises as to whether the Municipal Council will be justified in refusing licenses. We have also to look to the convenience of the travelling public. I do not know anything about the legal aspect of the question. But one thing is certain that this indiscriminate issue of licenses will be stopped, and we will consider the required number of buses necessary to each line. This has also become a scandal. Certain parts of the roads are overcrowded with buses. Some of these buses are in a rotten condition, and I warned the Government that these buses should be placed under a special officer. A resolution will be brought in this House to that effect and I hope that the House will pass it unanimously.

Deputy President.—Do you support the resolution?

Dr. A. R. Menon.—I support the motion but at the same time I wish to bring to the notice of the House a charge that has been levelled against the Municipality. I object to this sort of wording. No Government can insist a Municipality to do a particular thing.

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—The Government is not going to insist the Municipality but they are only requesting the Municipality.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I beg to withdraw the latter part of the resolution. Nay, in view of the explanation given by the Hon'ble Member for Trichur, I withdraw this resolution with the leave of the Council.

(*The resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

(*The following amendment of Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar was not moved and was hence considered withdrawn:*—

"*Omit the word 'Trichur' and insert 'Towns' and insert after 'Municipality' 'and Town authorities'. In line 2, instead of 'in the Town' make it 'in Towns'.*"

15. Higher Education in the State.

Deputy President.—Resolution No. 15 also stands in the name of Mr. Barton Wright.

Mr. C Barton Wright.—Mr. President, Sir, the resolution which stands in my name reads as follows:—

"*This Council recommends to the Government that a committee consisting of non-official educationists with His Highness Appan Tampuran as Chairman be appointed to inquire into and*

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